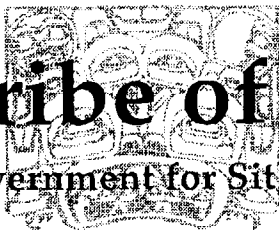


Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Tribal Government for Sitka, Alaska



State of Alaska
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Division of Program Development
Attn: Mr. Jeff Ottesen, Director
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801-6984

February 12, 2004

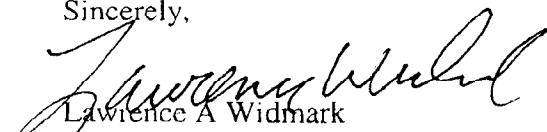
Dear Mr. Ottesen,

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska would like to submit comments for the draft Non-Metropolitan Local Official Consultation Process. Sitka Tribe of Alaska is the federally recognized Tribal government in Sitka, Alaska. We are responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of our more than 3,100 Tribal Citizens, primarily of Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian heritage

Sitka Tribe of Alaska administers the Indian Reservation Roads Program to address the transportation needs of the enrolled tribal citizens. The Sitka Tribe of Alaska would like to recommend that there be a site reference statement that Alaska Department of Transportation has separate consultation process for statewide transportation planning. This would assist in Non-Metropolitan Local Officials that cooperate, consult and collaborate with tribal governments in their communities to address common needs.

The Alaska Department of Transportation has a defined distinct form of cooperation and consultation in the development of Statewide long-range transportation plans and Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs for Indian tribal areas as one of three governments stated in 23U.S.C. 135(d)-(f). Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Transportation Manager, Dan Moreno at (907) 747-6506

Sincerely,


Lawrence A. Widmark
Tribal Chairman